(iv) Government has announced a revival packages of Rs. 508 crore in the ongoing Budget Session.

(v) Transfer of technology agreement signed by the Company with M/s Alcatel for GSM system.

Poor quality of mobile services

†921. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY by pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that users of mobile phones are not able to get quality service as a result of mutual business competition among several mobile telephone service providers in private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner, an assured situation for better services would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, it is observed that customers are likely to get better quality of service due to competition among service providers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Private telecom companies

†922. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private telecom companies providing services in the country;

(b) the details of telecom services being provided by those companies in rural areas of various States;

(c) the number of WLL and cable telephone connections provided to the urban and rural subscribers in Bihar from the year 2003 till the 30th June, 2004 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited; and

(d) the target fixed for the years 2004-05?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) 27 number of private telecom companies are providing access service in the country. The service being provided by these companies includes basic telephone service, cellular mobile telephone services depending upon the coverage. It is not mandatory for Cellular and Unified Access Services Operators to provide rural coverage.

(c) As intimated by BSNL the number of telephone connections provided in Bihar from 2003 till 30.6.2004 by BSNL given below:-

	WLL	Cable (Wireline)
Rural	9297	10914
Urban	4597	6757
TOTAL:	13894	17671

(d) As intimated by BSNL the target for Bihar fixed for 2004-05 are as follows:—

WLL Connections	80,000
Cable (Wireline) Connections	80,000

VPTs in Jharkhand

923. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private basic service operators have not fulfilled their contractual obligation to provide VPTs in Jharkhand, so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of VPTs yet to be provided and by when, these would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the licence conditions of private basic service operator for Bihar Service Area including Jharkhand, there was no contractual obligation to provide VPTs in Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.